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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ATHENS 03217 251609Z

43
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
---------- 045991
P 251548Z APR 75 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8535

S E C R E T ATHENS 3217

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR GR US
SUBJECT: SECURITY COMMITMENT TO GREECE: COMMENT BY BITSIOS

1. AT ONE POINT DURING A CONVERSATION HE WAS HAVING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN ON OTHER MATTERS YESTERDAY, FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS REFERRED TO GREECE'S CURRENT SECURITY TIES. BITSIOS SAID -- IN THE GENERAL CONTEXT OF THE POSSIBILITY OF HOSTILITIES WITH TURKEY -- THAT IT APPEARED TO HIM THAT GREECE WOULD HAVE TO FACE SUCH AN EVENTUALITY ALONE. HE SAID, APPARENTLY HOPING BUT NOT REALLY EXPECTING THAT HARTMAN MIGHT CONTRADICT HIM,

THAT GREECE DID NOT HAVE ANY "DIRECT SECURITY COMMITMENT" FROM THE US. BITSIOS ALSO DENIGRATED THE INTRINSIC WORTH OF EXISTING NATO SECURITY GUARANTEES, SAYING THAT A VETO FROM ANY GOVERNMENT - FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID, A MINISTER IN THE DANISH GOVERNMENT -- COULD EFFECTIVELY FRUSTRATE ANY NATO COMMITMENT TO GREECE'S SECURITY AND DEFENSE.
KUBISCH

SECRET

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To: STATE
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